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5. — *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, from October, 1735, to October, 1743, inclusive, transcribed and edited in Accordance with a Resolution of the General Assembly.* By CHARLES J. HOADLY, Librarian of the State Library. Hartford : Case, Lockwood, and Brainard. 1874. 8vo. pp. 604.

MR. HOADLY prosecutes his undertaking with the same excellent diligence and judgment which produced the former volumes of his edition of the Records of Connecticut. Governor Talcott's administration of seventeen years, beginning in the third year before the accession of the second king of the house of Hanover to the British throne, extended to within two years of the end of the period embraced in the last two printed volumes of these records. It was a period of quiet, prosperity, and contentment. The Colony had no French nor Indian war on its hands. The British government abstained, for the most part, from annoying it. Nobody was rich in it, but scarcely anybody was poor, and those few were attentively taken care of. Through the work-day week, the grown people had all something useful to do, and the children were all busy at school; and the Sundays brought a sufficing screed of savory doctrine from the pulpit in every hamlet. The old hives swarmed, and fifteen new towns were founded within nine years. Meanwhile an intelligent and hearty public spirit prompted and guided the public action. Connecticut did not put off her creditors with any lying substitute for honest money. The deputies took thankfully their *per diem* of seven shillings, and their mileage of three pence, not a man of them dreaming of a "salary grab." As yet "crédits mobiliers" were not, nor any grants of the public indorsement for private financiering. A corporation (the "New London Society") applied to the Colony for a loan. But the Assembly with old-time wisdom "resolved that such a society of merchants, whose undertakings are vastly beyond their own compass, and must depend upon the government for their supplies of money, and must therefore depend on the influence of the government to obtain it, is not for the peace and health of the government."

There was a jealousy of the legal profession, and in the Colony, with a population of some thirty-five thousand souls, the law allowed "eleven attorneys and no more," giving three gentlemen of the robe to one county, and two to each of the others. The young College at New Haven received a patronage bountiful in proportion to the means of the time. Within two years, exemption was granted suc-

cessively to the Episcopalians, the Quakers, and the Baptists "from contributing to the support of the established ministry." But the administration of Governor Law, who came to the head of affairs at the death of Talcott in 1741, did something to reverse the recent tendency to ecclesiastical freedom; for the distinctive characteristics of the original Colonies, New Haven and Connecticut, still survived, and Law, born and bred in the former of them, leaned, as his Hartford predecessor had not done, to an intimate union between Church and State, and a policy of strict coercion for sectaries and innovators. "The Great Awakening," so called, under the auspices of Whitefield and his friends, took place while Law was in office, and — unlike Massachusetts, which allowed the movement to take care of itself — Connecticut used some strong measures against the agitators, restraining their ministers from itinerant services, and expelling from the jurisdiction some who distinguished themselves by special disorder.

It fell to Talcott's lot to give his Legislature a practical lesson as to the paramount claims of public station. His wife died suddenly after a morning's session of the Houses, which had taken a recess till the afternoon. By the Constitution they could not transact business without the presence of the chief magistrate or of his lieutenant, and the lieutenant-governor chanced to be absent and out of reach. So the stout old governor went from his house of mourning, and finished his darkened day in the hall of council. For appearance of reality and heartiness, the proceedings of the government on that occasion compare not ill with more recent mortuary performances of public bodies : —

"May it please your Honor," said the law-makers in an address of condolence, "we, the representatives of the Colony of Connecticut, in General Court assembled, humbly take leave, with one heart and mind, to address your Honor under the sore and awful rebuke of the Almighty, who has, by his holy and wise providence, removed from you that dearest part of yourself, the desire of your eyes, and the greatest comfort of your life, by a sudden and unexpected death; and to let your Honor know that we esteem ourselves sharers in your loss, and afflicted by your affliction, and that we do affectionately condole your Honor's lonely and widowed state, and desire with your Honor to take notice of the divine rebuke, and to quiet ourselves with the consideration that the Almighty Lord of Hosts, all whose works are done in truth, hath done it; and would not complain of, but mourn under a sense of the heavy stroke of his holy hand; especially when we consider the subject of our present mournful meditations in the relation of a worthy consort to your Honor, or that of a mother, a mistress, a Christian friend or neighbor, in all which we should fall short of doing justice to her memory, if

we should fail of pronouncing her to be virtuous, affable, tender, kind, pious, charitable, and beneficent."

And more in the same devout and tender strain; to which the revered mourner replied:—

"TO MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN REPRESENTATIVES:—

"As every spark adds to the fire, so every fresh mention made to me of my departed companion is a fresh wound to my bleeding heart; and upon the sight of your address in condolence in the loss of her makes such impressions on me that I cannot express myself, nor speak a word, but only, with a trembling heart and hand, thankfully acknowledge your kind respects and honor done both to the living and the dead. I wish I could, in a more suitable manner, express myself to you on this solemn occasion. I hope that, in consideration of my present pressure of grief, you will cover all my infirmities with a mantle of charity; for I am, gentlemen, yours to serve, in all things that I may, to the utmost of my power."

The entrance of Jonathan Trumbull upon the public service of his Colony falls within the time which Mr. Hoadly has recorded. When forty years more had ripened him, Washington was to learn, to his great content, the quality of the stanch Lebanon deacon, and of his thirty or forty thousand psalm-singing backers. As we had occasion to say, awhile ago,\* a genuine chivalry animated that straight-laced form. For blood or bone, we would match Trumbull against any racer of the Revolution; and nobody excelled him as a prompt, precise, painstaking man of business. Whether the General was distressed by want of gunpowder, or the Sound was to be cleared of British ships, or New York Tories needed an application of the strong hand, the exigency always found him wide awake. But till the Virginia chief got used to the solemn Yankee patriot, we can fancy him puzzling over the edifying comments interwoven with the more immediately practical matter of his communications and wondering whether a scrap of last Sunday's sermon had not somehow slid into the governor's despatch. It was not, however, the only time that, to good advantage, sword and Bible have been thrown into one scale.

But of this brave career it is only the beginning that Mr. Hoadly's record as yet comprehends. We wait impatiently the continuation of this most instructive series of volumes. Their interest must increase as they proceed through the thirty years' interval before the outbreak of the War of Independence. The part taken by Connecticut in the romantic campaign at Louisburg comes next in the historical sequence.

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\* North American Review, LXXVII. 85.